

HOUSE RESOLUTION 194

By Zachary

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Avery Flatford on being named the Boomer Esiason Foundation's inaugural Team Boomer Co-Athlete of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this legislative body should recognize those young persons who have demonstrated both strength in the face of adversity and determination in raising awareness of a worthy cause; and

WHEREAS, Avery Flatford of Farragut is one such estimable individual, who was recently named the inaugural Team Boomer Co-Athlete of the Year by the Boomer Esiason Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the Boomer Esiason Foundation is dedicated to supporting individuals diagnosed with cystic fibrosis by raising money for scholarships, exercise programs, transplant grants, educational programs, and cystic fibrosis research. To date, the organization has raised more than \$130 million; and

WHEREAS, cystic fibrosis is a rare, inherited, chronic disease that affects the lungs, digestive system, and reproductive system of about 30,000 Americans by causing a thick build-up of mucus that leads to blockage, inflammation, and infection; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation created Team Boomer to highlight the importance that exercise serves to those afflicted with cystic fibrosis; as part of that effort, Team Boomer acknowledges and celebrates athletic individuals diagnosed with cystic fibrosis by crowning one as an Athlete of the Month; and

WHEREAS, hoping to raise awareness to greater heights, Team Boomer prepared for a global contest to find the Team Boomer Athlete of the Year, in which seventeen previous

Athletes of the Month would utilize their respective Facebook accounts to garner votes and share their stories of living life as an athlete with cystic fibrosis; and

WHEREAS, Avery Flatford, who was chosen as the Athlete of the Month in January 2017, orchestrated a successful internet campaign and achieved victory with 89,190 votes, the highest cast among all the candidates; and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2017, Team Boomer announced that it would give a title to both a male and female candidate, and Avery Flatford became the inaugural Team Boomer Co-Athlete of the Year, a title she shares with Michael Caruso Davis of Delaware; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Flatford is a fourteen-year-old student at Farragut Middle School who was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis when she was only eighteen months old; and

WHEREAS, despite the difficulties her condition may bring, Avery Flatford has thrived both academically and athletically; she is an honor roll student and star pitcher for the Farragut Middle School varsity softball team; and

WHEREAS, her athletic prowess on the softball diamond helped her team win the district championship, as she struck out nine of the eleven batters during the championship game; her record was 9-1 for that season with sixty-four strikeouts; and

WHEREAS, she plans to play on the Farragut High School softball team and hopes to one day be the first pitcher with cystic fibrosis to play at the collegiate level; and

WHEREAS, Avery Flatford is the first Tennessean and first softball player ever acknowledged by the Boomer Esiason Foundation; and

WHEREAS, her numerous achievements are a source of tremendous pride for her parents, Chuck and Lynsey Flatford; her brother, Rhett; her teachers and fellow students; and the entire Farragut community; and

WHEREAS, individuals such as Avery Flatford are a testament to the outstanding character of the youth of Tennessee, and it is appropriate that this legislative body recognize and congratulate her on all that she has accomplished; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and

commend Avery Flatford on being named the Boomer Esiason Foundation's inaugural Team Boomer Athlete of the Year and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success in all her chosen endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.